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Cleary College
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Fine Production of "The Sorcerer."

It was not so many years ago that people believed in witches, sorcerers and their powers. Among other things was a firm belief in what was called a love philter, by which one could administer to another the potion in a cup of water or upon anything eatable and immediately that person would fall madly in love with the giver. Such was the idea carried out in the opera of "The Sorcerer," one of Gilbert & Sullivan's earliest. Alex, the young lover, who is about to marry Aline, in a spirit of philanthropy wishing everybody to be equally joyous as himself secures her consent to engage the services of J. Wellington Wells, a noted sorcerer, and prepare a love philter which will be partaken of by all the villagers at a feast which was about to be given in honor of the approaching marriage by Sir Marmaduke Pointdexter. At the close of the first act the potion has commenced to work and the villagers loose all consciousness. The second act displays the powers of the philter and each falls in love with the first person of the opposite sex whom he or she happens to meet. To complicate matters Aline has at the request of Alex partaken of a draught in order that he might make sure of her love and she immediately falls in love with the vicar. The disparagement of the ages and social conditions of those who had drunk of the potion makes the situations very comical. However, the charm is broken by the death of the sorcerer and all go back to their first loves.

The production last night was by home talent and rivaled that of "The Doctor of Alcantara" in point of success met. Too much cannot be said of the work of Oscar Gareissen and John Dodge, who took the parts of Sir Marmaduke Pointdexter and son. Many a professional might envy with justice their dramatic and singing ability. F. J. Swaine, as John Wellington Wells, had a part that exactly suited him, or rather he suited himself to the part, and once more displayed his fine abilities in comic opera. Marshall O. Straight, as Dr. Daly, the vicar, had a fine make up and had he sung louder it would have greatly improved his part. Dan L. Quirk, jr., as the notary, although he had a minor part, was one of the features, showing a fine stage presence.

Miss Mollie Wise, as Lady Sangazure, undoubtedly carried off the honors of the evening as far as the ladies' parts were concerned. She has a natural stage ease that was pleasing in the extreme, and in future productions of the character of last evening will be looked upon to take a prominent part. Miss Jane Farnham showed a considerable improvement over her work in "The Doctor of Alcantara" and her duet with Alex was heartily applauded. Miss Alice Babbitt, as Mrs. Partlet, and Miss Minnie Adams, as Constance, her daughter, both carried their parts in an excellent manner. The chorus work was much better than heretofore. Mrs. Jennie Q. Pack again demonstrated her fine abilities as an accompanist and much of the success of the opera was due to her accurate work.

The minuet and peasant dances under the direction of Dan L. Quirk, jr., were excellent and showed careful preparation.

Handicapped with none of the conveniences of an opera stage and the poor acoustic properties of the hall, Oscar Gareissen, under whom the opera was conducted, is deserving of great praise for the manner in which it was produced. A commendable feature was the absence of any baton to direct the singers. The opera will be reproduced again this evening and with the experience of last night to gain by it is predicted that everything will pass over more smoothly.

If You Live on the East Side

Take the 'os car next Thursday night for Cleary Hall, and hear Oscar in the role of Sir Marmaduke. Alexis, his son, should of course be a handsome tenor. We cannot Dodge that fact, so one has been engaged.

The famous minstrel manager, who dances the horn-pipe, though he neither drinks the one nor smokes the other, will make a notable character of the Notary. A well-known photographer will play the part of Doctor Daly, and play it Straight, while J. Wellington Wells will be done by an ever popular city Swaine. A Wise young woman is Lady Sangazure, and one who has made Jennie well known as an excellent vocalist during the past year, will on that evening begin to make an equal reputation for Jane.

We Judge there is naught of soap in the part of Mrs. Partlet, but the name of the actress suggests both. Constance, her daughter, though still young, is really one of Adam's children.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary expense incurred by the management in hiring a famous humorist (?) to write the above item, the price of tickets to The Sorcerer still remains the same—25 and 35 cents.

H. S. C. S. (Archives)
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